

Book Review: Discovery Before Trial, by George Ragland, Jr.

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those subjects which are codified under uniform acts such as Partnerships, Negotiable Instruments and Sales, the particular codified sections are used to initiate the problem, followed by an explanation of the section and illustrated by the use of pertinent modern cases. The problems are very well annotated with a choosing of authoritative, similar or contradictory, cases from various states thus giving the student an indication of the law in his own state. Wisconsin cases are found both in illustration of instant problems of law in the text book proper and are also cited in the annotated portions of the text.

Very much favor was found in this arrangement since it is an intelligent escape from the theory and narrowness of the Horn book and the difficulties of the Case book. Such an arrangement if followed in the law school text books would tend to facilitate the legal problems to the student of law as these authors have eased the path of the business student into legal matters which will confront him in his daily commercial contacts.

WARD DUNPHY

Discovery Before Trial, By George Ragland, Jr., 1932. One volume. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, Ill.

The author of this book, George Ragland, Jr., has made an extensive study of the subject of discovery examination from its earliest inception down to the present time. There is very little, if anything, more to be said on this subject than what is contained in this comprehensive work. The book should prove very valuable both to the bench and to the bar. Mr. Ragland makes a strong plea for adverse examinations as a means of clarifying the issue and saving the time of the courts and attorneys and as a basis of settlement. He points out that under the present practice the discovery examination is not an antagonistic procedure and is usually welcomed by the attorneys as the effect of such examination is to save time and to promote substantial justice between the parties. The fact that the examination may be had by a stipulation between the parties, or at the request of either the plaintiff or the defendant, that in most personal injury cases defendant is an insurance corporation whose attorneys would rather dispose of their cases by settlement than await the delay before trial and be subject to the uncertainty of the verdict of a jury, are points to be studiously considered by the attorney for the plaintiff. The author in a very comprehensive and easily understandable manner has set out the subject of examination in a way that is sure to be very helpful to the young and inexperienced attorney. He shows the inadequacy and confusion and the loss of time of courts and attorneys in trying to arrive at the real issue in a case. Mr. Ragland has made an extensive study of the discovery statutes of the various states and discusses very fully the procedure in each state. His work is particularly helpful to the young attorney in that it sets forth in detail the actual practice before a court commissioner, the scope of the examination, the supervisory jurisdiction of the circuit court over such examination, the value and proper use of the record at the time of the trial and the current practice as followed by attorneys with special reference to the practice in Wisconsin. The author has made a careful study of the practice as followed in Milwaukee County at the present time. The author explains the actual practice and in that lies the great value of the book.

VAUGHN S. CONWAY